HISTORY OF VESTA (BONNIE) BUHLER ROUTH HALE

BY GLENNA CLYDE MCBRIDE

Vesta Amber Buhler was born 2 Sep. 1906 in Midway, Wasatch Co. Ut. She was the 11th child in a family of 12 born to Gottfried and Louise Barben Buhler.

Vesta had beautiful curley, red hair and blue eyes. She was a happy child always singing and laughing. Being mischievous she was always ready to try anything new. She was never afraid of anything or anyone (except her step-mother). She had a quick and sharp mind, he always had a answer for everyting. She knew how to get her own way at a very early age. Her sister Bernice was 2½ years older but she often coaxed her sister to join in her plans. Their mother had forbide the girls to play in the ditch that ran past the house. It was swift and dangerous for children but Vesta loved to play in the water. She would tell Bernice, Lets play in the water, if we get caught we only get a spanking. The spanking only hurts for a minute and think of the fun we can have."

Her home was a typical L.D.S. home with love and security for her. She loved her brothers and sisters all 10 of them. Her brother Will was married before she was born but he lived close and while she was young she played with his children. There was Joseph, Alma, Ardell, Francis, Ephriam, Carl Roland, Orson, and Bernice who were older. Her brother Thurman was 2 yrs younger. Her father was usually working but her mother was always home. Her family, friends and neighbors always came to her home to visit—she always had company.

Vesta does not remember very much about her mother for she passed away when Vesta was only 7 years old. She remembers that her brother Thurman who was only 5 called to her the morning her mother died saying "Vesta, Ma is dead". They were both to young to know what it was

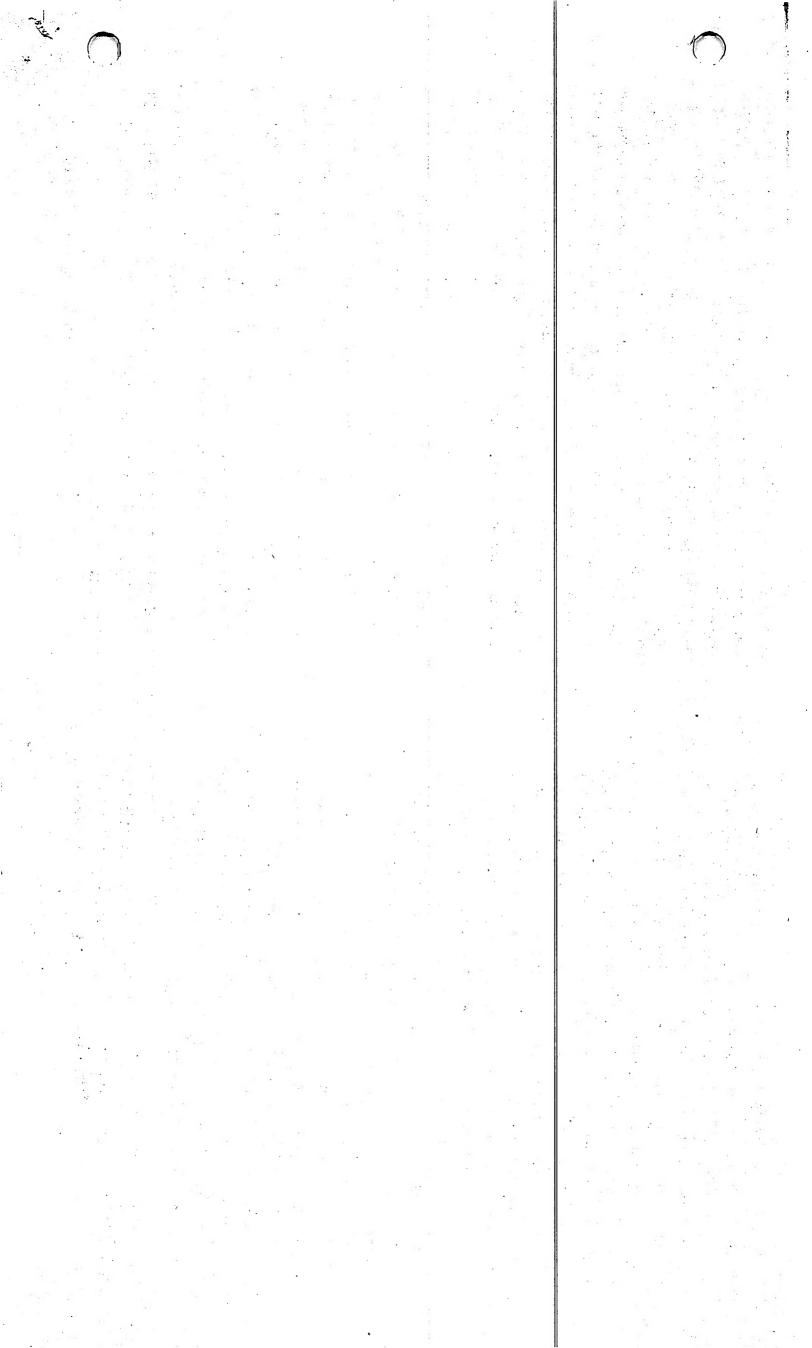
all about. She was lonely and unhappy with out her wonderful mother. As she tells in her history her brother Will and family moved to Idaho shortly after and she missed Will, Rachel and the boys.

When her parents talked Vesta always wanted to hear all so she said they would talk in German. She could not speak the language but she could understand every thing they said. Her father was one of the wealthiest men in Midway. He owned his home with a large bath house and small store, a creamery, and a large dept. store. He also had a farm: and he rented out some of the large machenery he owned--usually with one of his sons. As I said Vesta did not miss a thing, she noticed that when her mothers brothers and sisters and family came to visit they never left when her Pa was home Her mother felt sorry for her family and she would load their wagor with clothes and small gifts. She was willing to share for she had so much but she knew that her husband would not like it. Vesta was good at listeming even though it was always in whispers.

She remembers her mother kniting stockings at nite and how fast the knitting needles would fly. Sometimes she thought her mother must be asleep up the knitting still went on. Her mother was a excellent seamstress and as she had her choice of the material in the store she sewed the childrens clothes. Bernice and Vest were often dressed alike--they had fancy, beautiful dresses.

One time Vesta brought a dollie home from school. She had made it on a loom and she was so excited about giving it to her mother. When her mother saw it she started to cry. Vesta said, "Don't you like it?" She never did figure out the tears of joy.

From the age 7 to age 13 when she went to live with her sister Ardell and her family she was never happy, except on week ends.



stayed home to help take care of the children and home. She thought She did not like any of the children and they all thought she was very Burkhart). Mary had a daughter in Switz. but she did not know how thing. They were married 6 May, 1915 -- Mary Madlinger Busekhart (or who was a new convert to the church, he thought he was doing the right store for awhile. I am sure her father wanted to have a mother for home. some trouble over the money she spent for food caused Ardell to leave to talk about getting married again. The talk of a wife so soon and she was doing a good job with the cooking and home but her Pa started Vesta could not eat the food she cooked, her bread was doughy, her strange. Rol, Orsen, Bernice, Vesta and Thurman were still at home. to be a mother and she could not cook. She never did learn English. his children and when the Bishop suggested that he marry this sister soup curdled and her mush lumpy. She also gave the children skim milk years gone by) and she was not used to that. If Vesta could get the crust from the ed with Florence Carrol who lived next door. She was 6 years younger Sometimes when they could get in the store she and Orson would steal bread she could eat it (she still grabs for the crust after all of the a hand full of food and put it in her mouth quick. older sister Lilia. Vesta said she loved to help with the dishes and but she liked to go to the Carrol home for sometimes they would give her and Bernice some cake or other goodies. Bernice played with the she always carried the left over food to the pantry. When her mother died Jan. 24, 1914, Ardell quit high school and She lived with her friend Pansy Bonner and clerked in their She tells about this in the tape that was recorded.. She play-Her father had money, but she never told him she was hungry. She lived on a few crusts, small pieces of cheese and She could take

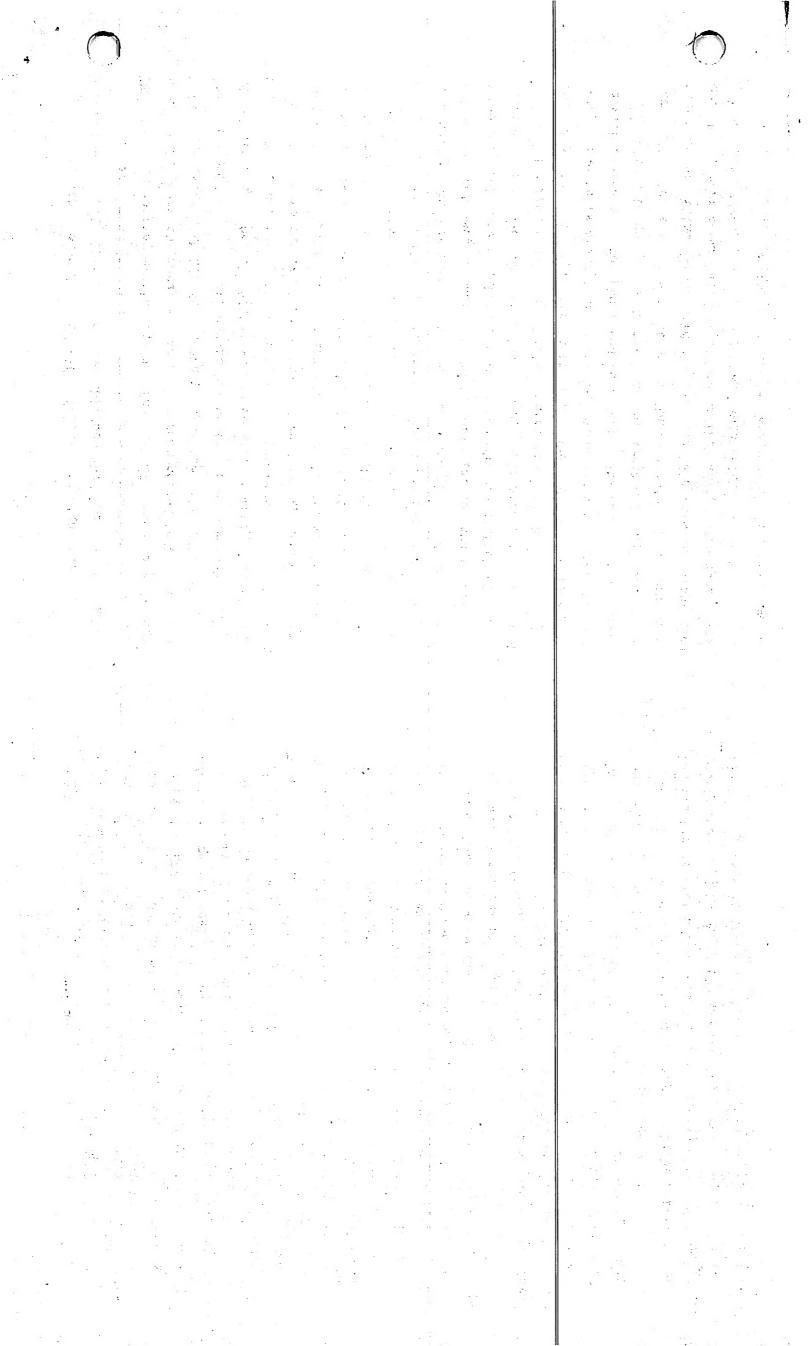
Ardell was married and she lived in Heber. She and Bernice walked

to Heber every week end to stay with Ardell and DBan. They were happy to have them for they knew home with Mary was not happy. Vesta said they would stuff Ardell's good cooking in until they were miserable. Both Bernice and Thurman could eat the food Mary served them but Vesta could not. Both Bernice and Thurman died of cancer and she is healthy--she has said "I wonder?" Vest said she never thought of telling Ardell or Dean or anyone else.

Mary hated Vesta and Orson because they hated her and they would not obey her. They were both sure that she had tried to kill or injure Vestawith scalding water. They thought that she was crazy for she had a wild look most of the time. She could be kind and sweet at times and this was hard to understand. It was not until 15 years after she was married that the family found out she was crazy and she was sent to the mental hospital in Provo. In 1930 when Thurman and Fay came to live in the house and take care of them Fay had worked in Provo with the mental ill so the first time she looked at Mary she knew she was sick. Dr. Wherrit was called and he confirmed it and she was sent to Provo.

The Buhler family knew that their Father was to old to care for the large home, the grounds and the bath house and besides that they worried for his safety living in the same house with Märy. For years he had locked the door to his bed room at nite. They asked Thurman if he would care for his Father and in return the family would give him the home and all of the land around it.

In 1932 a few town people thought Mary should be released, they had visited her for a short time and she seemed well. Because of the gossip Fred said he would let her come home for a trial. All of the family were against it-especially Fay and Thurman who had small kids.

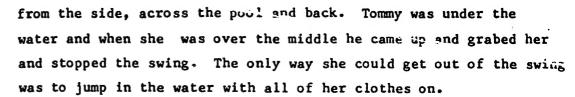




She was out of the hospital just a short time shen her husband found her dead in her bedroom. Some time during the nite she had cut her throat with a dull knife and had bleed to death. She died Feb. 1,1932 and was buried in the Midway Cemetary. The family were thankful that she had not taken some one elses life.

Vesta learned to swim when she was about 5 years of age. When she was lonely she could always go swimming. Many of the towns people came to her fathers Hot Pot bath house for their weekly bath. There was one part where the water was very hot that was used for that. Most of the day and evening there would be people she knew in the swimming pool. She could swim and dive like a fish and she loved the water. She would go swimming several times im one day--maybe that was why she had the ear ache so much. She remembers her Dad holding her and rocking her in his chair. He would put hot packs on her ears and sing to her. She said he told her Bible stories and the one she liked best was the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors. When she was ill he was gentle and kind and she was glad for his love and attention.

She went to the Midway Elementry School close to her home from first grade thru eighth. When the boys teased her she would always fight with them. She had freckles and red hair and she had a temper. She could run faster than any of the boys but they seemed to like her to catch them. When foot races were held on the town square for holidays Vesta always won first place. The reward was money. The boy who teased her the most was Tommy Van Wagner. He would put her curls in the ink well and they would turn green. One time he was swimming in the Hot Pots and Vesta decided to show off. There was a swing in the middle of the pool-it was a long rope from the top and on the end was a metal ring. She had her best clothes on but she liked to swing

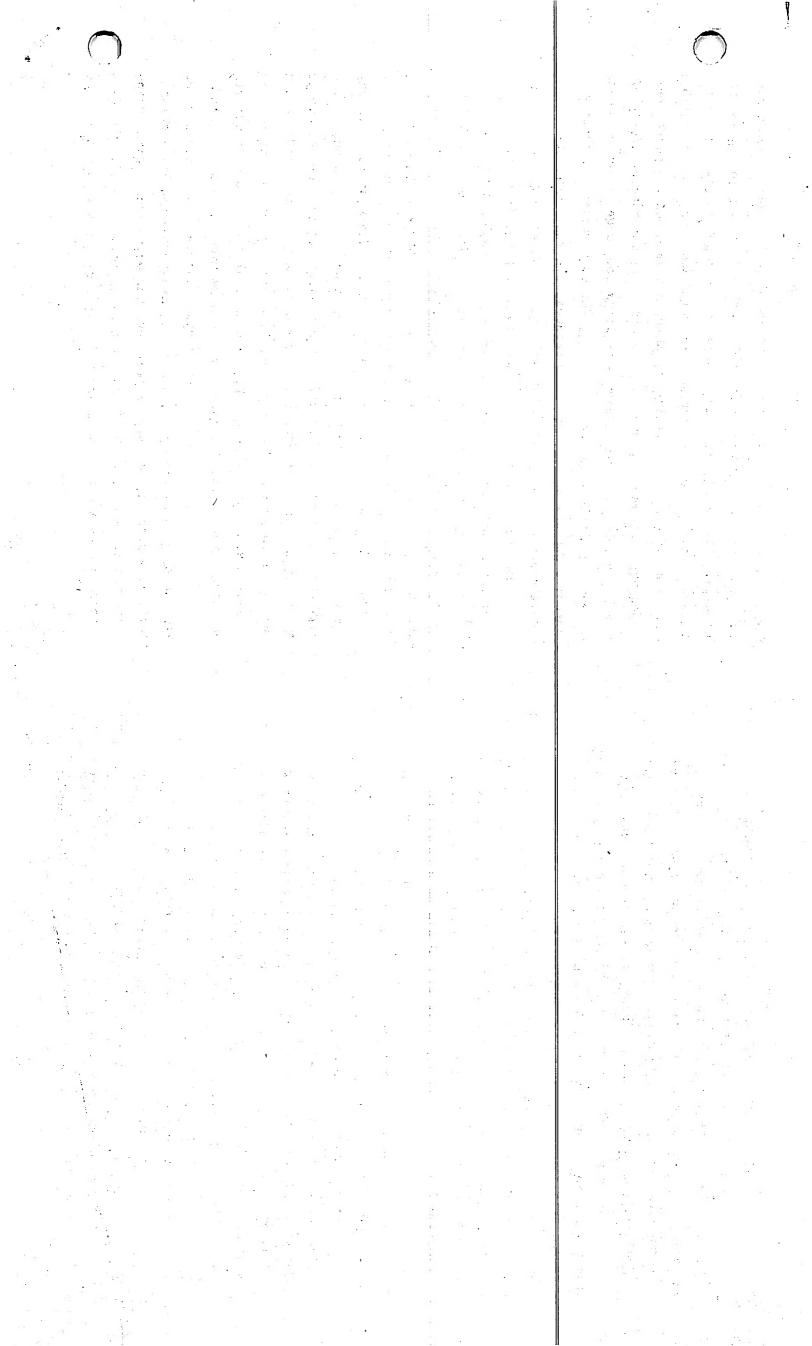


She was so lonley that she would stay as long as she could at school helping her teachers. She had Bernice to play with but Bernice did not want to be bothered with her little sister. She was like most big sisters. Vesta would do anything for her if she could just be around her and her friends. It seemed to her that her father always said yes to Bernice and that she had to coax for everything she wanted. She would whin and coax her father until he said yes. She would stand by the door so she could run. When he told her to shut up or he would slap her, she was ready to run when he started for her. She could usually get him to say yes after she coaxed awhile.

She and Bernice did get to go to Heber every week end to stay wit. Ardell. They walked most of the time but never all the way. Some one always came along and gave them a ride. When Ardell lived south of town on a farm they would cut through the fields and that was a cut off. They would race the last part and the one who got there first would get to hold Glenna first. In the winter time it was cold and Westa said they would get in bed with all of their clothes on. Ardell would catch them and make them get undressed.

When Vesta was 13 she finished elementry school in Midway and went to Heber to live with Ardell and Dean. She was very happy when herPa said she could live with her sister and go to school at the Wasatch High in Heber. Dean told her that as long as he had a home she would have one with him and the family. Barbara was a baby and Vesta was thrilled that she could tend her. It was a dream come







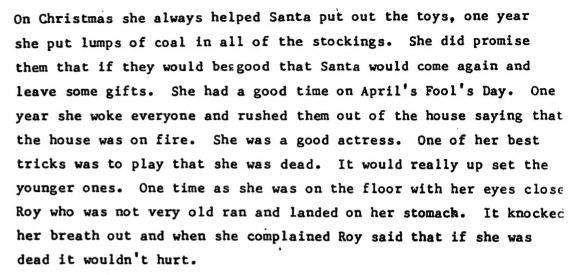
true. Ardell was like a mother to her and she loved to be with the children. Barbara, Ed and Glenna were happy to have a older sister. Everyone was happy for Ardell no longer had to worry about her -- Bernice and Thurman seemed to get along O.K at home. It was also nice to have Vesta help her with the children. She could trust her to take the best of care all the time she lived at home.

It has always been easy for Vesta to make friends. She has always had many girl friends and she has always had a good time with them. Her friends in the neighborhood on North Main were: Maud Bonner, Luicine Hatch, Susie Duke, Margie Smith and Vera Murry. They were usually to her place because she was always tending the kids. Ardell didn't care how many friends she had come to her home. When Vesta went places she took the kids with her—they were part of her life for many years. Her friends at school lived in the South part of town. Some of them were Dorthy Reed, Virginia Moulton, Grace Cummings and the Hylten twins. In school she was not interested in the boys. She was happy with her girl friends and with planning things for the kids.

There were pic-nic's at Hatches Spring, hikes to the Mill Pond where she would take the kids on the raft. It was fun to play in the large barn in the back. Sometimes it was hide and seek or sliding on the hay, walking on the high beams of swinging on the hay fork. It was always a treat when they could buy a large bag of candy and Vesta loved candy as much as the children. She always supervised the dividing of the candy. Then there was the times she sent Glenna and Ed to get apples from Isabelle's --green apples were the best treat of all.

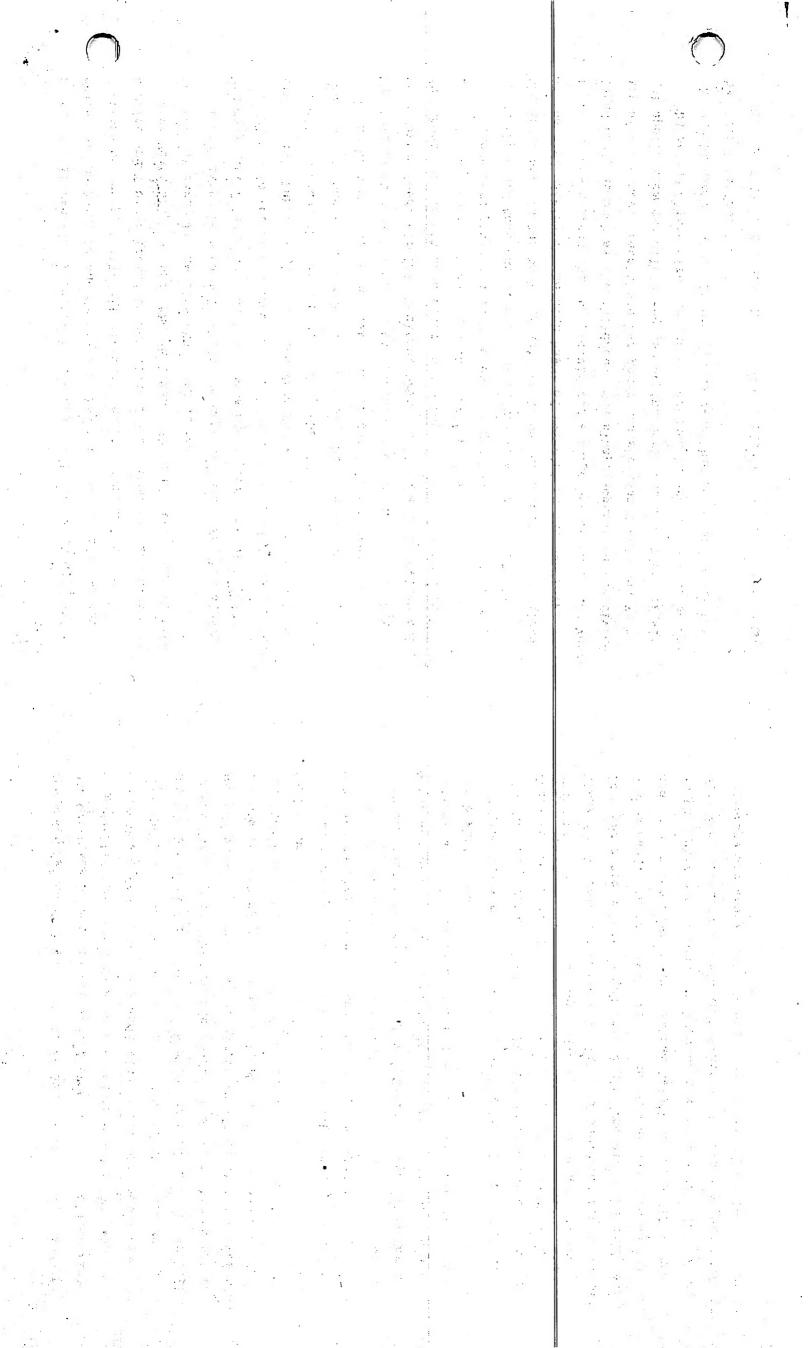
She helped Glenna with her school work and before Ed went to school she taught him to read. It was fun to teach him poens and songs for he learned so fast.

She was full of fun and she was always playing tricks on the kids.



Vesta always wanted to play the piano like Ardell but she did not want to play the exercises and scales when Ardell said she would give her lessons. She learned one song and she played it over and over (with mistakes) it was Catch the Sunshine. Every one liked to play the player piano. It was fun to put a paper roll of music in the piano and pretend that you were really playthe beautiful music.

Besides entertaining the children she looked out for them. One time Mrs Wray brought her son Hale to play with the kids and asked Vesta to tend him. She gave Hale some money to buy candy and treveryone. He bought the candy but he was planning on eating it at himself. He held the paper bag tight and would not let Vesta touch it. Vesta had a idea to get some candy from him. She said lets play a game. In turn each one was to jump up and down on the chair and then to the floor. When it was Hale's turn she lifted him up on the chair and without him knowing she poked a hole in the bag with some scissors she had in her hand. She had him jump until the bag broke and candy went all over the floor. She told the kids to





to help him pick it up. She made them understand that they were to keep all they found.

Everyone loved candy and if they could go to Add Everetts and buy a bag of candy, come home and divide it nothing could be better. Vesta always took charge of the dividing as each child took turns picking out the candy they liked best. a quarter would buy a lot of candy in those days. One time Vesta sent Ed to the store to buy a quarter's worth of chocolates. She told him not to eat any until he got home. He was only about 3 years old and he loved candy better than anyone. When he came home he had chocolate all over his face, hands and clothes. He handed the paper bag to Vesta with one piece of candy left. She was a little angry for she had her mouth all set for some sweets.

When Roy was born Vesta was happy to have another baby to tend. She loved babys and children all of her life. She wanted to sew for him so Ardell let her use some cloth from things that were not used around the house. She made so many little rombers that looked so good that from then on Ardell was glad to buy marerial from the store for her to sew. Roy was such a good natured and cute little boy that it was fun to dress him up and show him off. Sometimes she would change his outfits three or four times a day. As he grew out of his baby bed he slept with Vesta. His mother and Vesta were the only ones he would stay with without crying. One nite Vesta got him to sleep and then went to a party or something. She asked Bernice to come and sleep with Roy and told her not to speak if he woke up. He would feel Vesta's face when he woke up and then go right back to sleep. When he felt Bernice's face he knew it was not Vesta and he cried or hours or until Vesta came home.

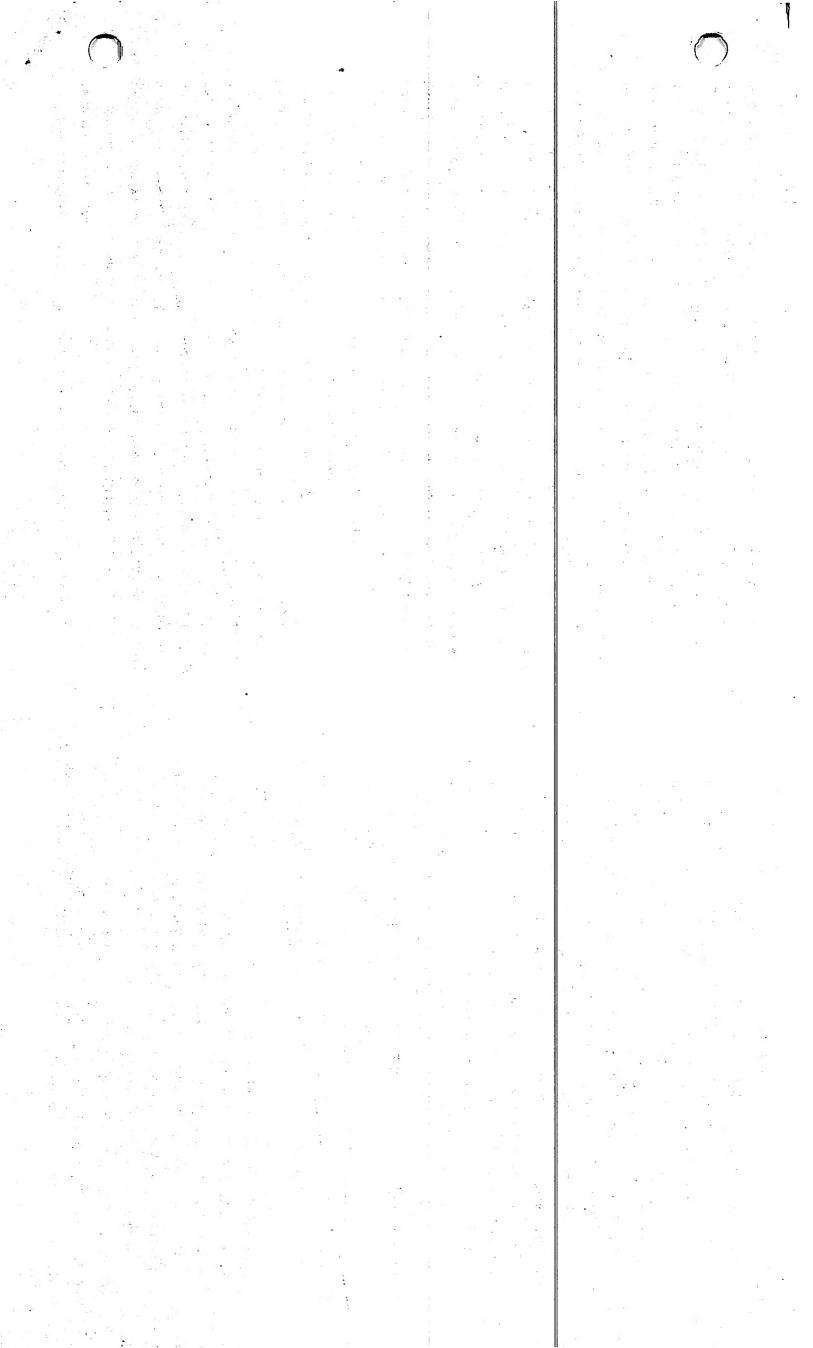
When she graduated from High School and went to Salt Lake to attend L.D.S. business school she could hardly stand to be away from Roy. She knew that she had to work and business was the cheapest training

she could get. She really wanted to be a school teacher but that was out. She borrowed the money for her tuition from her father and told him she would pay him back when she was rich. Ardell and Dean said they would give her spending money and she could live with a cousin for her room and board. Bernice had lived with Heber and Flora Hicks in Salt Lake and worked for them. They were happy when Vesta wanted to live with them. They had three children Ridge, Ruedia and Joyce. Vesta liked the children but she didn't like to be told that Bernice did things this way and that way.

Her brothers France and Croon lived in Salt Lake. France took her to the movies and visited her. Orsen had her visit him and his family often. Both brothers took her to Heber at times--this was the best thing they could do for her.

When she graduated from school Heber got her a job with a man named Mr. Sullivan doing office work. When she asked her boss when pay day was he said what do you mean, you are working for experience. She had already worked for 2 or 3 weeks and she was not going to work another day without pay. She left that nite and never went back. From working in a office she did find out that she hated being alone all day. She wanted to be around people

She not only left her job but she left the Hicks household. She went to live with Orson and Emma for awhile. Emma's mother and sister worked at a sewing factory and they thought they could get her a job. She got a job at the Z.C.M.I Factory, she liked sewing and she liked being with a lot of girls her age. She made friends with Melba Ahlistrom and she invited Vesta to live with her and her two sisters Vi and Velma. She went to work at Pikes sewing factory and after about two weeks they asked for girls to go to Northern Calif. to help open a new factory. This was just



what she wanted--to travel and all expenses paid. She loved Santa Rosa and she loved the work. The girls were to go for 6 months but they stayed for a year. Some of the girls went home but she was happy in Calif. She was rooming with Beth Engh when she decided that she like to work in Los Angeles. Vesta was not worried about going alone but Beth worried about her. Beth arranged for her friend Alta Page from Bountiful ,Utah to meet Vesta at the Pier. She traveled to L.A. by boat ---this was a new wonderful experience. She was one of the few who didn't get sea sick on the trip. Alta was looking for a girl

with red hair and a green skirt and sweater. They met and liked each

other so Alta invited her to share her apartment.

She got a job in a coat factory the first thing by telling them she had experience making coats. The first day she watched the girl next to her and asked a few questions. She caught on fast and was soon on of the best. They sewed on large power machines and were paid by the pieces they sewed. She could always find a job sewing. He lived with different girls and in several apartments. It was nice to have a change.

In 1931 or 32 she was living with Lucile Page. Alta had married and they were still good friends. When Ardell brought her husband Dean to L.A. for his health Vesta and her friends met the train and took them to Long Beach or Vesta helped them finds an apartment and get settled and then Ardell asked her if she would go home and watch the children. Glenna was 16 years and Ed 14 but it was depression and they were on the ranch away from neighbors. When she came home she told every one that she had changed her name. Her name was Bonnie and that was what she wanted to be called. That year she was called Vesta more than her new name but the family got used it it after awhile. When she moved to L.A. she changed so in L.A. that

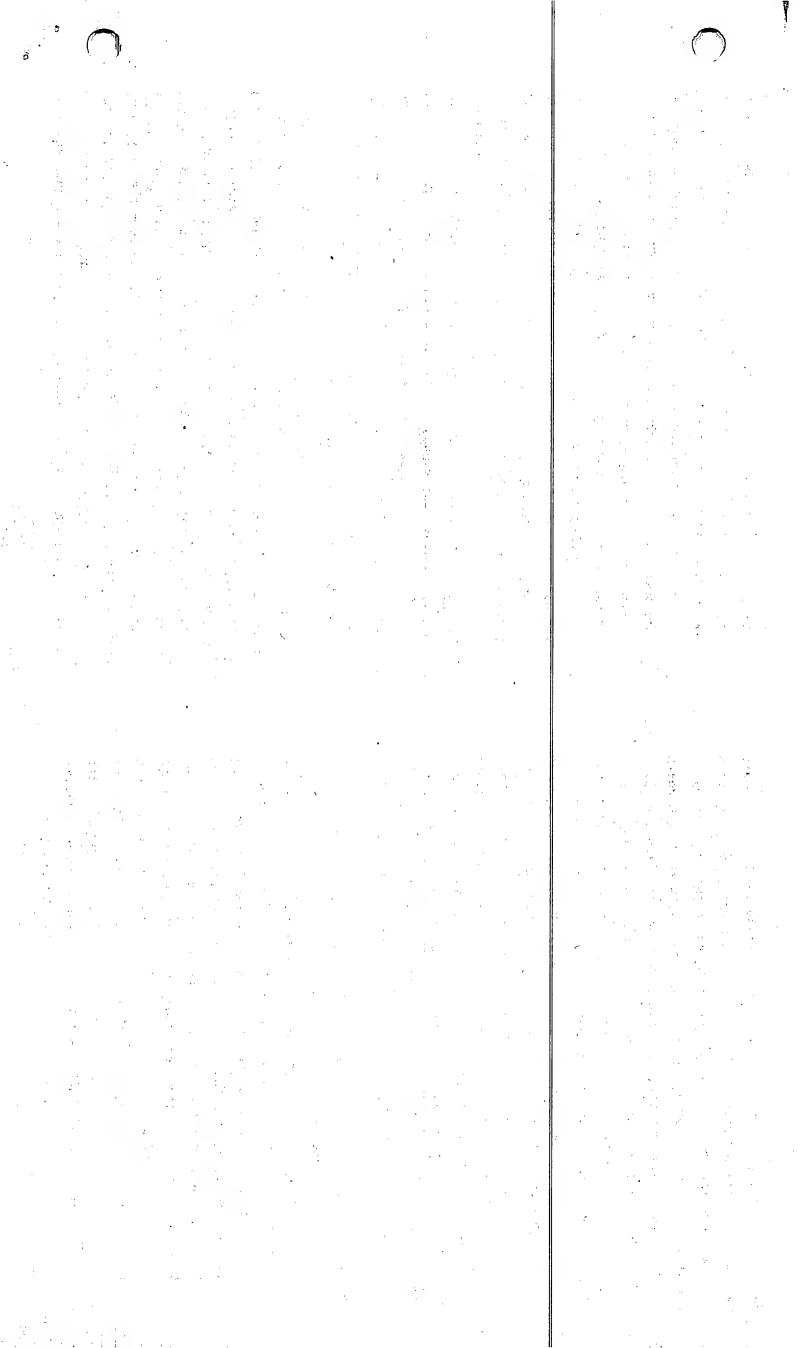
she never heard Vesta. She changed because some of the girls call-her Vestabul.

Glenna visited Vesta and stayed with her when the Wasatch High Band came to L.A. for a music contest. It was just before the 1932 Olympic Games in L.A. The band won first place so there was a lot of excitement for everyone who ever lived in Utah and Heber. Bonnie and Lucile lived in a nice apartment in Hollywood not far from where they worked. Every nite and on week ends they took Glennato see all of the sights of Southern Calif. They had beach parties at nite, went to dances at the big ball rooms, to Knottsberry Farm. Catalena Island and all of the places in Hollywood and beach resorts. Glenna had such a good time she asked if she could stay and live with them.

The end of 1933, Oct. 28 she married Elwin Hubert Routh. Every one called him John. She had other boy friends over the years she was in Calif. but she had not met the right one util John. John and his brother Clyde lived in the same apartment house as Bonnie and Lucile. One nite Bonnie was making candy and as they pounded the nuts to shell for the candy it made quite a noise. The boys knocked on the wall and Bonnie knocked back. After a few knocks they got acquainted with each other. Her first date with John was a ride on back of his motorcycle. Clyde and Lucile were married fater and the two couples had many good times together in Calif.

John delivered jewelry for a wholesale house in L.A. when they were married. He soon bought his own store and took a course on . watch making by mail. He had a good business and made a good living.

Their first child was born 25th of May 1935, a boy, and they named him John Clyde Routh. He had blond hair and blue eyes--he was cute, smart and wonderful. They were very happy with their new baby.



Johnie was the best dressed baby boy in town. Bbanie loved to sew for him and he looked so cute in his clothes. Bonnie was not only good at sewing and designing but she was very good at decorating. The Routh's always had a nice home and with Bonnie decorating it was special. She had and still has a talent to put colors together and create a beautiful setting. With just a few art lessons she has painted many beautiful paintings. She is talented in all fields of art. She has done beautiful ceramics, made flower arrangements from the silk flowers she has made. She has made afghans and quilts for her children and grandchildren.

Vesta has always attended church and she has served in many of the organizations. After she was married she was a teacher in the Matthews Ward Primary for many years. She has been work director in the Relief Society in different wards. She has been called on to help or the sew the costumes for road shows and other church plays and skits. She has sewed for bazaars, fairs and other money raising projects. In L.A. the little girls dresses were spoken for before she ever had them finished.

Jean Marie was born the 4th of Jan. 1937. The prowd parents were thrilled to have a beautiful girl. Jean seemed to grow up fast, she walked and talked very early. The two children played together and had many happy times. They were closed in ages and close as they green up and attended school.

Their third child Diane was born the 15 th of March, 1940. All of the family were happy to have a new baby girl. The older children tended and played with her and loved it. Bonnie's health was not good for a few years and Johnie and Jeans help was needed and appreciated.

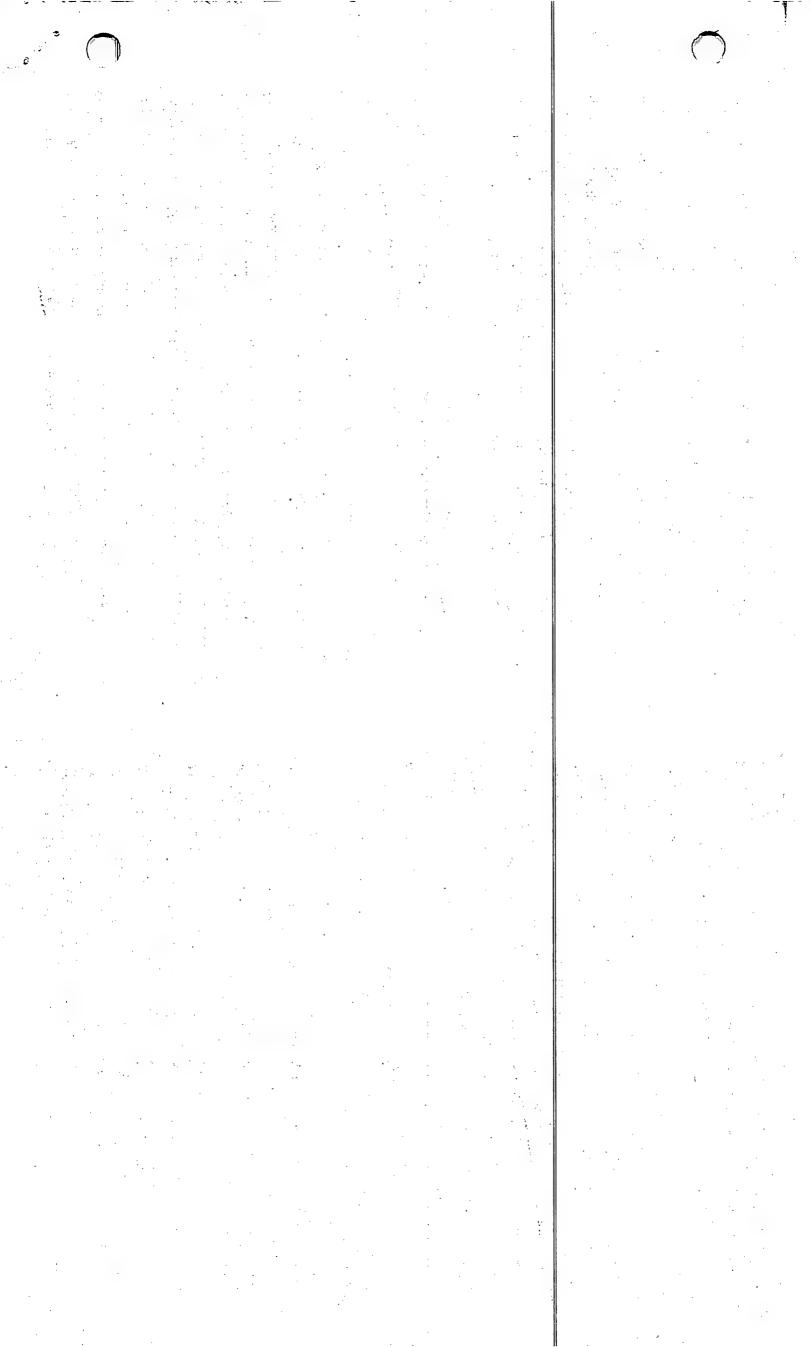
From the time Bonnie and John were married they went out to eat

on Sundays and went to see some place of interest. Before the children were old enough to enjoy travel they often took Clyde and Lucile. Sunday was Johns day with the family---they could plan and select any place to visit and any place to eat. Both Bonnie and John liked to be on the go. They liked to camp, to fish, to go on boats and for a few years John flew a air plane and they belonged to a club. Vesta and John would fly with the club to Wyoming or Montana for breakfast. There were so many places of interest in and around Los Angeles that they could always have a good time. John always made a good living and he was generous: with every one. The price of entertainment was never considered by either them.

Ardell and Dean and all of the family were always welcome at the Routh home. Each time someone would visit John and Bonnie saw that they had a tour of Los Angeles and vicinity. It was always with all expenses paid.

In 1941 Glenna and Hugh moved to Los Angeles and Hugh found work there. They found an apartment close to Bonnie and John and in the same word (Matthews) Bonnie introduced them to all of her friends at church and they met other friends from Heber who were living close by. Glenna and Bonnie was together every day -- they had a good time. When Clyde was a baby he played with Bonnies kin and she tended him often. Johnie, Jean and Diane claimed him as their baby and he loved to be with them. Both John and Bonnie were good to Glenna and Hugh. They were always treating and giving them things. Bonnie sewed for Clyde and later Pat and she made most of Glenna's dresses.

Bonnie was always free hearted. When she lived in Calif. she was always sending boxes of goodies home to all of the family. She sewed for Glenna and Barbara---her surprise packages were wonderful. She





came home every summer before she was married and if she had a dress, sweater or something Glenna or Barbara liked she would give it to them. Bonnie was tall and thin and Glenna was short and fat but her dresses always fit Glenna. Bonnie had so many beautiful clothes (most of them she sewed) that Glenna would wear a different outfit to school every day she visited. She told Glenna she could wear her clothes if she did not perspire under the arms. This would make Glenna nervous and she was not always able to keep her promise. Quite often Bonnie would give her the dresses, blouses or coats. Bonnie gave clothes to Ardell too and loved to give her gifts. The christmas box was always special. Barbara remembers during the depression that Bonnies gifts made the christmas. She sent boxes to he sister Bernice and family when they lived in Talmage. They did not have much money so Bonnie helped out with money and gifts. She never visited her brother Alma, when times were hard for him, that she did not put a 20 dollar bill in his hand.

In Los Angeles Bonnie, John and Glenna and Hugh had many good times. They were together every holiday and they were glad to celebrate together. Hugh tried his best to explain the gospel to John, he used to ask a lot of questions. He seemed to believe all he heard but he was not ready to be baptised. All of their close friends were Mormons and John loved to be with them. It was not until he moved to Salt Lake that he joined the church.

In 1953 the family moved to Utah, to Salt Lake. They had owned and sold several jewelry stores over the years and now they wanted to get out of L.A. The neighborhood was changing and the blacks were changing thingsfor the whites. It was a period of unrest in L.A.

Bonnie was anxious to live in Utah where she could be with her sisters and brothers. John thought he would like to live close to

mountains where he could hunt and fish. They bought a home close to the canyon going to Heber and John found a place down town for a jewelry store. Bonnie helped him when the girls were in school. During there life she helped with the bookkeeping but she always wanted to be home with her children. This was important to her.

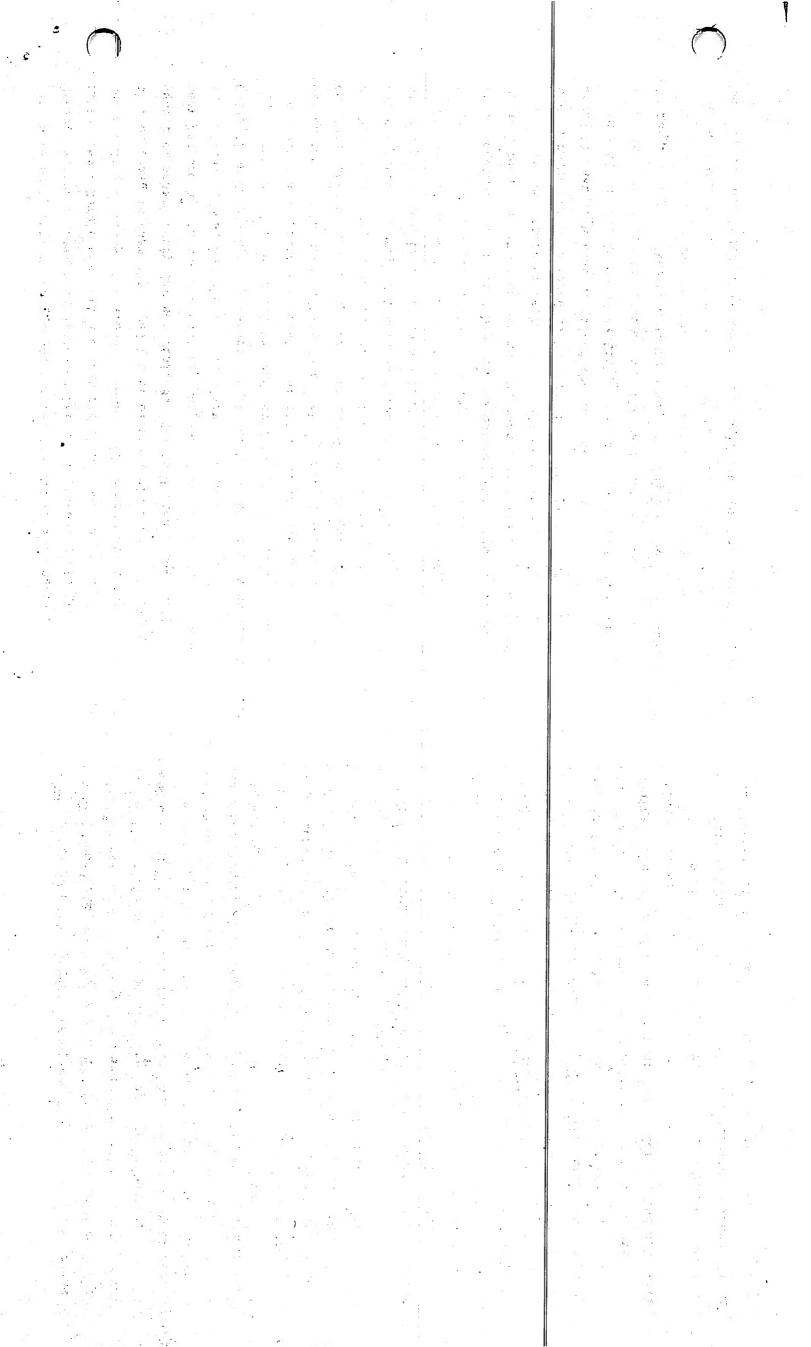
The jewelry store did not do good so they were glad when Ardell told them about a friend who was looking for a couple to sell the Radio Ear Hearing Aid. They took some training and were happy with this new business.

In L.A they had owned apartments and they had paid off so they bought apartment houses in Salt Lake. Both John and Bonnie were good at fixing up run down apartments. Bonnie cleaned them and helped rent them. They worked together selling and repairing hearing aids and taking care of apartments.

The family loved Utah and in Salt Lake theyowned a nice trailer and a boat for camping andboating. They enjoyed the scenic spots of Utah and with children and grandchildren they visited most of them.

Bonnie did not forget all Ardell and Dean had done for her and when Ardell needed help she was there. Dean had several small strokes and Ardell tried to care for him at home. Bonnie went to Heber as often as she could and helped Ardell. When Bean passed away in June of 1969 Ardell was nervous about staying alone in her home. Bonnie went to Heber often after work and stayed with her at nite. She was glad to have a place to go for her and John were having problems.

In 1972 Bonnie filled for a divorce. The children were married and little problems became big ones. They remained friends during this time--after 40 years or marriage it was difficult for each one.



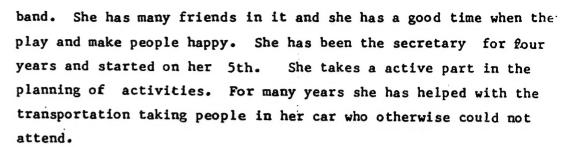
The property was divided fairly, she took the home and John took the business. She was happy with one apartment house and willing for John to have the two others. They were friends through all of the settlement.

Bonnie had to keep busy so among other things she went bowling at the senior citizen center. She met Maylon Hale there and he was attracted to her. He was older than her but he had a good sense of humor and she needed a friend.

She married Maylon March 7,1973 just 2 days after her divorce was final. A short time before they were married Bonnie had gone to the S.L. temple and had her endowments. She refused to be married to him in the temple but she was glad that he had encouraged her to go for herself. She and Maylon went on a number of nice trips and she was happy with him. He passed away in 1975 after a short illness. As his widow she got a pension form the U.S. Government. He had worked for the post office and oly his widow could collect the pension. He had children and Bonnie thought they should have every thing he had. They even took some of her things but she did not want to cause trouble, she refused her share that was given to her by the court.

John also married but his marriage did not last long. He got a divorce after just a few weeks. He lived in Bountiful until his death in 1984. John and Bonnie remained friends but they only saw each other when they spent holidays and special occasions with Jean or Diane and family.

Bonnie continued to go to the senior citizen center where she had many friends. She went on trips with them and enjoyed the programs they had. She joined the Murry Sr. Citizen Harmonie: Band with two of her friends: Rose Hansen and Mabel Drty. They play for rest homes, churches, schools and other civic programs. She still plays with



She lives in a condo now at Aix la Chapelle in Holliday. This is close to her daughters and famalies and she is across the hall from Glenna. They are both alone and they are happy to be so close to each other. Glenna moved from Calif. in 1979 the month of June Bonnie moved in a month later in July. They have both made many new friends and they love the Holliday 4th Ward.

They go to Heber to see Barbara and she enjoys the get togethe of all of the sisters: Bonnie, Glenna, Barbara, Shirley and Ardea their

She is happy with her daughters and husbands, children and grand-children and great grandchildren. She sees them often and they are all good to her---yes she is good to them too.

She bowles with her brothers Orson and France once a week and they have a good visit and love being together.

There are two swimming pools in the complex--she loves to swim and in the summer she swims almost every day. The back pool is close to her condo, she can see the water and watche the swimmers. Sometimes the noise carries over to her place and she says she loves it for it reminds her of happy days swimming in the Buhler Hot Pots.

